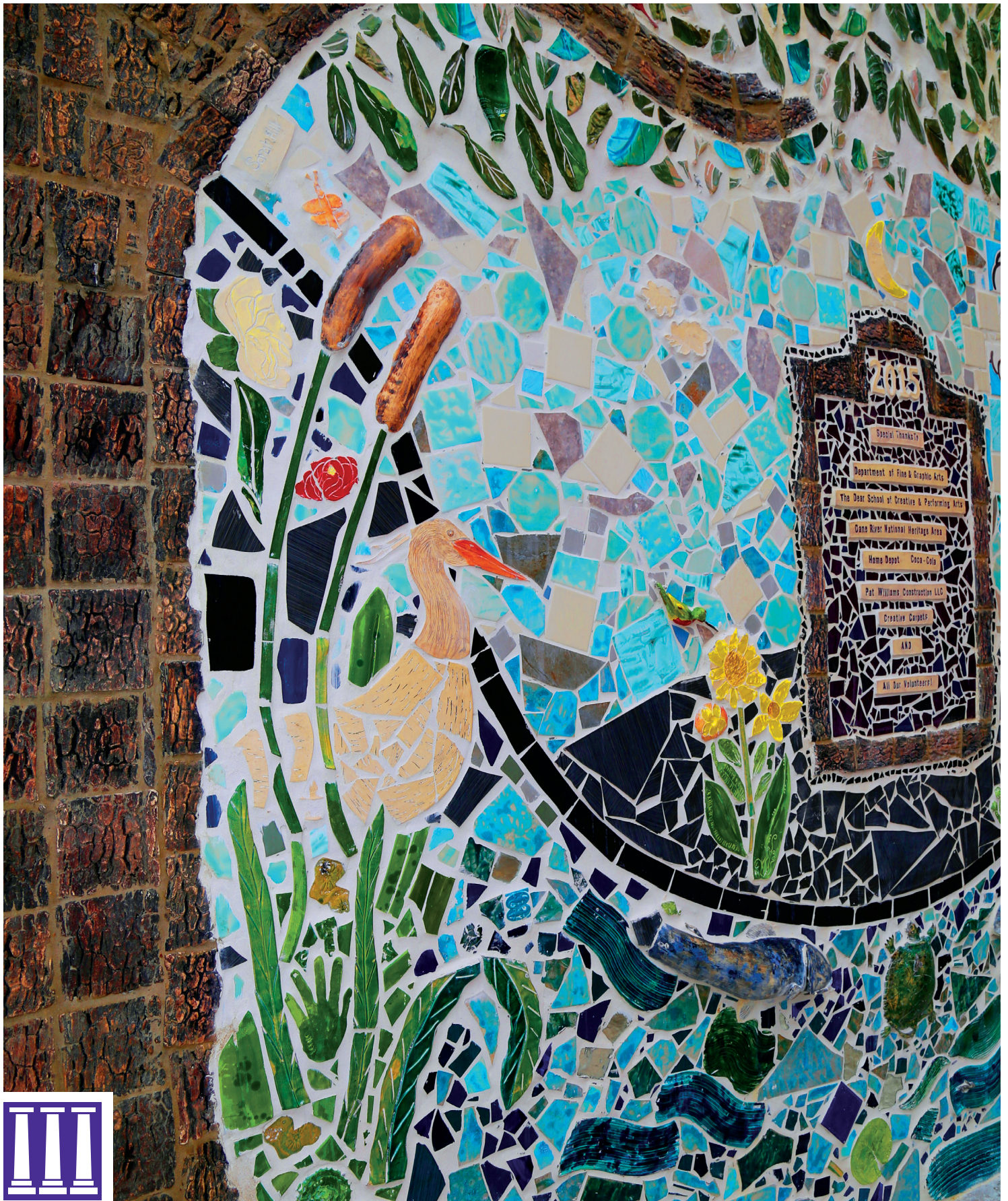


Alumni Columns

SPRING 2016

Northwestern State University Magazine





*Dr. Jim Henderson
1994
President
Northwestern State
University*

My fellow alumni,

When visiting with high schoolers and other prospective students, I talk about the realities of the 21st century economy and the challenges and opportunities the emerging generation will face. One prediction that piques the students' interest says 2 billion jobs currently filled worldwide will no longer exist in the year 2030. Of course, those will be replaced with new types of work that will be reserved to those who can think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively and use technology. That is why it is so important for these students to choose a university that will help them develop these core competencies while also providing them the marketable skills relevant to today's employment opportunities.

Even as the importance of a college education increases rapidly, we have immense opportunity to prioritize higher education in Louisiana. As you know, recent weeks have been devoted to advocating for our students in the face of further budget reductions. We are continuing to build support for a solution to the budget crisis that invests in our future. In case you missed it, you can view a personal message from me here:

<https://vimeo.com/nsula/review/154799215/6bd3db31ad>

In spite of the financial uncertainties at the state level, we at Northwestern State are committed to strengthening our academic offerings while providing a world class experience for all students. We have added a number of high demand programs and many others are in development. As a result, the entering freshman class this fall will be one of our largest on record. I could not be more excited about the future.

We have accomplished much in a short time, but our work has just begun. We confront change at an astounding pace and we must be willing to learn, adapt and grow. The faculty and staff at Northwestern State have shown a remarkable willingness to collaborate, exchange ideas and work with other institutions to provide opportunities for students and we are seeing the benefits of our hard work.

Please do not hesitate to contact with questions or concerns.



*Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

Dear alumni,

A few weeks ago, I joined other administrators from Northwestern State University in supporting our students as they participated in a rally for higher education at the state capitol. It was tremendously encouraging to see our students passionate, informed and engaged in the legislative process and I was proud of the leadership they showed in representing our university.

I would like to thank everyone who reached out to us on campus and to our friends in Baton Rouge to express support for our alma mater.

With all the bad news you have heard about higher education since January, here is some good news: Northwestern State is growing. Our momentum continues to build as we remain focused on providing academic excellence and a first-rate experience to our students. We have redoubled our efforts to develop partnerships with stakeholders outside the university and are attracting some of the best and brightest students from Louisiana and beyond.

I believe our message of determination and resourcefulness resonates with individuals and groups when we talk about the exciting things happening at Northwestern State University and I thank you again for your role in supporting our mission.

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NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

President..... Monty Chicola, Natchitoches, 1979, 1980
1st Vice President..... Dr. P. Cade Brumley, Stonewall, 2002
2nd Vice President..... Caron Chester Coleman,
Natchitoches, 2000
Secretary..... Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978
Treasurer..... Mike Wilburn, Shreveport, 1975

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NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, 1994
Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce, 1961
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
for University Advancement Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Associate Director of
Alumni Affairs Vanner Erikson, 2011, 2014

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Wil Adams..... Shreveport, 2009
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Tommy Chester..... Natchitoches, 1969
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John Evans..... Natchitoches, 1992
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Carlos Treadway..... Northville, MI, 1992
Marti Vienne..... Natchitoches, 1982
Ricky Walmsley..... Rogers, AR, 1985
Dr. Leonard Williams..... New Orleans, 1993

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matthew Whitaker Winnfield, SGA President

Publisher..... Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Editor Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011
Contributors..... David West

Doug Ireland, 1986
Cole Gentry, 2008

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Students and faculty were recognized for their organization and participation in creating a colorful tile mural adjacent to Northwestern State University's Sylvan Friedman Student Union. From left are Emily Zering of Natchitoches, Professor of Art Leslie Gruesbeck, Sarah Hill of Boyce, Matt DeFord, head of the Department of Fine + Graphic Art; Ethan Stelly of Natchitoches, Brandon Melancon of Shreveport, Matthew Stevenson of DeRidder, Art Instructor Corbin Covher, Alicia Anderson of Quitman, Zane Bush of Rogers, Arkansas, and AJ Dempsey of Marrero.

New mural brings life and color to revitalized courtyard

Northwestern State University's Department of Fine and Graphic Art hosted a ribbon cutting earlier this year to formally open the campus's newest public art space, a colorful mosaic tile wall in a revitalized courtyard next to the Sylvan Friedman Student Union. The mural depicts the beauty of the NSU campus with tile, glass and recycled materials. NSU students and faculty worked alongside several dozen students from NSU Elementary Lab, NSU Middle Lab, Natchitoches Magnet, the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts and Bossier Parish Community College to manufacture tiles and install the finished work.

"It took many hands to make this piece come to pass," said Matt DeFord, department head. "This illustrates the power and importance of the arts in communities."

The mural is the result of a collaboration between NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts and the Cane River National Heritage Area who enlisted ceramic artist Mark Derby of New Orleans to help with the tiled mural. The project began last year when a design by student Angela Gourdon of Natchitoches was selected for the wall, previously a large blank concrete space. Derby led workshops for students and faculty, who designed and made many of the tiles, installed them on the wall and glazed the mural.

Coca-Cola provided umbrella tables and chairs for the space, as well as glass for the mural. Other sponsors were CAPA, Home Depot, Pat Williams Construction, Creative Carpets and Sodexo, who contributed funds and supplies.

"This mural is symbolic of the life of Northwestern State University. This represents creativity, innovation and the

power of faculty and students and community and the beauty that they create," said NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, emphasizing the importance of the arts in every day life and praising the talents of those who contributed their time and talents to the project.

The mural is located off the southwest corner of the Student Union facing Sam Sibley Drive. Administrators say the mural extends the area's green space from what was once a hard concrete area.

A video of the ribbon cutting is available at <https://vimeo.com/155711083>





ASHLOCK



CAMPBELL



HOLLY



TALBERT



WEBB

Five inducted into Long Purple Line

Northwestern State University honored five graduates by inducting them into the University's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line, with a celebration held in March. The 2016 inductees are Greg Ashlock of Los Angeles, Foster Campbell of Bossier City, Dr. James L. Holly of Beaumont, Texas; Glenn Talbert of Shreveport and the late Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Since 1990, 115 NSU alumni have been named to the Long Purple Line.

Ashlock is executive vice president of operations for iHeartMedia USA and president of iHeartMedia Southern California, where he is responsible for 500 employees in Los Angeles, the number one radio market in the U.S. Ashlock manages eight radio stations and is responsible for talent management, ratings growth, revenue and expense controls, public affairs, FCC compliance, legal affairs and marketing/promotions.

He was named Clear Channel Communications' Radio Executive of the Year in 2003, 2004 and 2006 and by Radio Ink as the Top Radio Executive in the country in 2007. Ashlock oversees the number one and three billing stations in the country and the top three rated stations in Los Angeles.

Ashlock earned an undergraduate degree in journalism at Northwestern State in 1991 and a master's from the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication.

Campbell is an elected official, businessman and farmer from Bossier Parish. He was elected to the North Louisiana seat on the Public Service Commission in November 2002, representing 24 parishes and nearly one million people. He was re-elected in 2008 and 2014. Previously he served in the Louisiana Senate representing Northwest Louisiana.

Campbell, a 1969 graduate in business and economics, owns and operates two insurance agencies in Bossier City.

As a state senator Campbell led a three-year campaign to regulate the rates charged by rural electric cooperatives, lowering electric bills for a million state residents. He

created the \$1 billion Educational Excellence Fund for local schools from Louisiana's Tobacco Settlement. In 2001 he coauthored "Do Not Call" legislation protecting consumers from sales calls at home.

An avid sportsman, Campbell passed bills creating special license plates celebrating the Louisiana Black Bear and Bobwhite Quail. Another Campbell bill established Youth Hunting Days to encourage young people to get involved in hunting. He was named "Conservationist of the Year" in 1997 by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

At the PSC Campbell has led efforts to prohibit wining and dining of commissioners and Commission staff by utilities. He has pushed for lower rates, energy efficiency, renewable power and expansion of high-speed Internet service.

In 2004 Campbell made national and international news by persuading the PSC to provide telephone service to the Mink community in Natchitoches Parish. Residents of this small community in Kisatchie National Forest had lobbied for 40 years to get phone service.

Holly, a 1965 graduate of Northwestern, is founder and chief executive officer of Southeast Texas Medical Associates. He is a graduate of the University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio, where he is an adjunct professor of Family and Community Medicine. Holly is an associate clinical professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Last year, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary and the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Northwestern State, Holly surprised his wife, Carolyn Bellue Holly, at the NSU Golden Jubilee luncheon by announcing the establishment of Carolyn Bellue Holly Distinguished Professorship in Teaching and Learning. In addition to the Distinguished Professorship endowment, the Hollys have honored their mothers with the Marie Cobb Bellue Scholarship in Teaching and Learning and the Irene Woodruff Holly Scholarship in Health Care Education.

The Hollys have advanced medical education at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, making financial contributions to the school to establish The



Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Distinguished Chair of Patient-Centered Medical Home; The Wirt Everett Bellue, Sr. and William Richmond Holly, Sr. Distinguished Annual Lectureship in Patient-Centered Medical Home; The Veritas Program for the mentoring of the next generations of medical students; The President's Development Council; The Danny Duke Annual Music and Medicine Lecture at the Center of Medical Humanities & Ethics and the Endowment of the Primary Care Institute for promoting primary care in the United States

James and Carolyn Holly have also received numerous honors at the Health Science Center including the Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly University Auditorium and membership on The University of Texas Chancellors Council. In 2012, James Holly was named the 2012 Distinguished Alumni of the School of Medicine.

Under Holly's leadership, Southeast Texas Medical Associates has become a leader in healthcare informatics, winning numerous awards in the field.

Talbert has been a successful agent for State Farm Insurance in Shreveport for 44 years.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Talbert has been a continuous supporter of Northwestern since receiving his degree in 1964, serving on the NSU Athletic Council and the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Talbert came to Northwestern after graduating from Gillis High School, where he was All-State in football and track and All-District in basketball. In his senior year at Gillis, Talbert set the Class B State Long Jump Record with a leap of 23 feet 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, a record that has stood for 57 years.

Talbert played on Northwestern's 1962 Gulf States Conference championship team as the starting halfback. Talbert was named first team All-Gulf States Conference halfback by the coaches and sportswriters in 1962 and 1963. He was elected permanent team captain in 1963 along with fellow teammate Sammy Joe Odom. Talbert signed with the Kansas City Chiefs after his senior year.

He was inducted into the Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame in 1985 and was recognized as one of the Top 100 Demon

players of all time that was announced to kick off NSU's centennial football season in 2007.

Webb, was the longest-serving president in the history of Northwestern State, holding the position from July 1, 1996, to Dec. 31, 2014. He died in November.

Under Webb's leadership, Northwestern State received unprecedented national and international attention for its academic programs and student accomplishments. University facilities were renovated to better serve students and two record-setting capital campaigns took place.

Enrollment reached record levels during Webb's tenure as president and exceeded 10,500 for the first time in history in the fall of 2004. Webb led NSU toward higher admission standards, which has resulted in students at the university having greater academic potential and aptitude. During Webb's tenure, Northwestern State had the largest graduating classes in the university's history.

Webb has also expanded the university's outreach by spearheading the development at NSU of the largest electronic education network of any university in Louisiana.

Millions were obtained during Webb's presidency for new and renovated facilities. The new facilities include the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center, Student Services Center and University Place I and II. Morrison Hall, the Family and Consumer Sciences Building, Williamson Hall, Russell Hall and Caspari Hall were completely renovated and restored.

A 1965 graduate of Northwestern in mathematics and business education, Webb earned a master of science degree in mathematics from NSU in 1966. He received a doctorate in education from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1971 with a concentration in mathematics and research.

Webb was a member of the faculty of Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia, and an administrator at the Louisiana Department of Education and Southeastern Louisiana University before returning to NSU in 1989 as Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies and professor of mathematics.

Coming Soon: The Summer 2016 Edition of Alumni Columns will feature honorees who were inducted into the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts. The induction was held in conjunction with the President's Command Performance, a spring gala to celebrate the arts, on March 18.

Emily Martin: Passionate about teaching and learning

Emily Martin credits her early years in Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans with instilling in her the Carmelite traditions of service, faith and education and she credits faculty in Northwestern State University's Galspy College of Education and Human Development with nurturing her energy and passion for educating others. The Baton Rouge teacher carries that passion into her classroom at Iberville Math, Science and Arts Academy East in St. Gabriel where she teaches gifted students in grades 3-12 and works to develop and communicate the school's unique culture, which she describes as the best kept secret in public education. She also has a busy family life with six children under age 11.

Martin's teaching style is based on positive collaborative experiences.

"My skill set, passion and personality can easily set me up to just take control and fix things—and in many cases, I do. Sometimes that what is needed. However, over time, I have truly learned the power of collaboration and community as an approach to both short and long term planning and development," she said. "For that reason, it's imperative that students explore, learn and practice the skills necessary for collegial communication and build the capacity to be both a valuable leader and member of a team. The art of give and take, the power of diverse perspectives, and the joy of shared learning are the intangibles that will continue to shape the world. When education turns on an axis rooted in those three things, everything else falls into place—classroom management, student learning targets, test scores—all of it."

In 2012, Martin earned National Board Certification as part of Northwestern State's M.Ed.—Teacher Leader degree that she completed in 2013. Last year, she completed the M.A.T. in secondary English and this year is wrapping up +30 with a Gifted add-on.

"With my six kids coming into the upper elementary/middle school

years, the timing is not right for me to work on a terminal degree, but that is absolutely something I plan to pursue down the line," she said. She has spent 13 years in the classroom and many hours completing graduate courses through NSU's online degree programs.

Martin said her passion and philosophy for teaching come from a combination of her parents and her teachers.

"For pretty my whole life, my dad has been in graduate school exploring content areas ranging from geophysics to law to theology. He spent countless hours growing and learning and experimenting and writing and enjoyed a long, rewarding career as a result of his efforts," she said. "My mother supported it, sacrificed for it, and kept me and five siblings on track with our homework and studies. Education was not just a priority for me as a child, it was me as a child."

She was also influenced by her teachers,

the good ones and the not-so-good ones.

"I learned from them all the lessons that matter—how to treat people with respect and how not to treat people; how to solve a problem within given constraints and how to throw constraints to the wind; how to honor deadlines and how to acknowledge shortcomings; how to celebrate success, and how to learn from failure," she said.

"I am so proud to tell everyone who asks that my credentials were earned at Northwestern, and I hope to represent your programs with distinction. We get kids—we get teachers—we get learning."

—Emily Martin



New faces in Alumni, Development hope to engage younger graduates

Northwestern State University's Office of Alumni and Development announces the addition of new staff members Kimberly Gallow, assistant director of Alumni Affairs, and Brittany McConathy, assistant director of University Development.

"Kimberly and Brittany bring energy and fresh ideas to the staff in Alumni and Development and will help us connect with younger alumni through networking and social media," said Drake Owens, assistant vice president for External Affairs and executive director of the NSU Foundation. "As new staff members, they will be instrumental to our mission as we grow our outreach and increase relationships with alumni, supporters, corporate partners and other stakeholders."

Gallow is a native of Lafayette and a May 2015 graduate of NSU, earning a degree in business administration. She previously held a position at NSU as a recruiter for Acadiana and the greater New Orleans area. As assistant director of Alumni Relations, she will manage programs, events and activities based on geographical region, class years and specifically target young alumni to increase engagement with NSU.

"With my experience in marketing and event planning, I look forward to implementing fun and innovative techniques to help further the reach of our alumni," Gallow said. "Through our strategic event planning and direct contact with our alumni, I am very excited to help the Office of University Advancement move to its next level of success and I am thankful for this opportunity."

A native of Pineville, McConathy is a December 2015 graduate of NSU, earning a degree in business administration.



Brittany McConathy and Kimberly Gallow

tion. She was an active student leader as president of Sigma Sigma Sorority, 2015 Miss Northwestern State University and 2015 Homecoming Queen. As assistant director for University Advancement, she will help articulate the opportunities available to support the life of Northwestern State.

"I am very excited to have this opportunity to work at the place that I love most, Northwestern State University. Coming to work every day isn't work to me, it's fun," McConathy said.

For information on how to connect with NSU's Alumni and Development Office, events and other opportunities, visit northwesternalumni.com.



Networking platform will link students to alumni, career opportunities

Northwestern State University's Office of Alumni and Development has signed an agreement with Graduway, an alumni networking platform, to maximize engagement among alumni. Graduway provides a platform to find alumni not engaged with their alma mater, helps graduating students by making introductions to alumni in their field and encourages networking for furthering connectivity, career advancement, university advancement and other opportunities.

Alumni register for Graduway using LinkedIn or Facebook so their network displays the most up to date personal and professional information. Network expansion tools enable users to find others and reconnect. The platform also features the latest news identifying alumni working in top companies and exclusive jobs.

"We are excited to be partnering with Graduway in our efforts to greater serve our diverse and vibrant alumni community," said Drake Owens, assis-

tant vice president for External Affairs. "We feel that their solution will take our engagement, networking, mentoring and career development efforts to the next level."

"We feel very privileged to be working with Drake, his team and this institution in building a world class alumni network," said Craig Kulman, vice president of Graduway.

For more information on Graduway, visit www.graduway.com.



Northwestern State University's
Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi
will celebrate its 60th anniversary
during Homecoming festivities Oct. 21-22.

Contact Alumni Chapter President Lane Luckie
pikappNSU@gmail.com | <http://pikappnsu.org/60th/>
[facebook.com/pikappNSU](https://www.facebook.com/pikappNSU) | twitter.com/pikappNSU

Classes join forces to fully fund post-baccalaureate scholarships

Northwestern State University's Class of 1966 is partnering with the Class of 1957 to fulfill a scholarship fund that will be awarded in 2017 through the Board of Regents Support Fund. Details of the scholarship will be discussed at the Class of 1966 Golden Jubilee May 6-7 as the class commemorates the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Northwestern State.

The Class of 1957 established a scholarship in commemoration of their Golden Jubilee with donors contributing about \$30,000. The Class of 1966 would like their classmates to contribute funds to meet a \$60,000 goal that will be matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents to support graduate and first-professional students as well as post-doctoral fellows. Income from the scholarship may be used for scholarships, fellowships and/or experiential opportunities, including internships, externships, conference travel and fieldwork.

"We are grateful to the members of the Class of 1957 who initiated the scholarship and contributed the majority of the funds already collected," said Sue Weaver, Class of 1966. "Our hope is that by combining our efforts, we will reach the goal to be matched and funds will be available as early as next year to help students seeking advanced degrees."



For information on supporting the scholarship, contact Jill Bankston at the NSU Foundation at (318) 357-4414 or email bankstonj@nsula.edu.

COEHD seeking nominations for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for the Hall of Distinguished Educators and Distinguished Young Professional for 2016.

Nominees for Hall of Distinguished Educators must have graduated from Northwestern State's College of Education at least 30 years prior to nomination and have made significant and/or impactful contributions to the field of education.

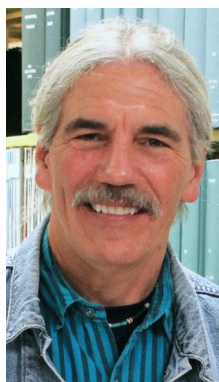
The Distinguished Young Professional in Education award recognizes an outstanding young professional who has made contributions in Pre-K through higher education or to the profession of education through teaching, research or community service. Nominees must be 40 years old or younger, have at least 10 years of meritorious service to education and gained prominence in some areas of teaching, administrative achievement, contributions to research, leadership in professional associations, contributions to professional literature and outstanding community service. Nominees should be of high moral character whose contributions have most fully expressed the spirit of service the award represents.

Inductees will be honored during a brunch and induction ceremony at the Teacher Education Center during Homecoming festivities.

The deadline to submit nominations is July 18.

To nominate an individual for these awards, send the nominee's resume and other documentation outlining the reason for the nomination to NSU Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development, c/o Janet Broadway, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

Additional information is available by calling Broadway at (318) 357-6278 or e-mailing broadwayj@nsula.edu.



Author, historian Flores pens 10th book: Coyote America

Dan Flores, a prolific author and acclaimed expert on the American West, has published a new book, "Coyote America: The Coyote in Continental History and Culture."

"It tells the whole story of the coyote in America, which, unlike wolves or bears, are distinctly native to North America," explained Flores who became fascinated by the animal as a teenager. The book examines how that creature has survived, despite -- or perhaps because of -- human encroachment.

Flores is the A.B. Hammond Profes-

sor Emeritus of Western History at the University of Montana in Missoula and the scope of his expertise on the American west encompasses geology, economics, environmental studies, ecology and Native American culture. As a historian and restoration advocate, he writes and lectures frequently, examining many facets of the art, geography, food, people and wildlife of the western United States, fostering connections with the past, present and future of the American West. He retired in 2014 and lives outside Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"I borrow from every field -- anthropology, archaeology, climate studies, wildlife studies -- and rely on science a lot," he said.

In addition to "Coyote America,"

Flores has written nine other books and penned numerous essays and magazine articles on the environment and culture of the American west, garnering a long list of honors from historic associations and literary societies.

Flores attended Northwestern State in the late 1960s where he played baseball.

During his career, Flores has appeared in several documentaries about the American West. His knowledge of the people, history and geography covers the broad sweep of the American west from Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas to the Southwest, the Great Plains and the northern Rockies.

Copies of Coyote America will be available at bookstores in June.

Always colorful and often larger than life, artist George Wolfe's legacy will live on

The family of a well-known Natchitoches artist created a scholarship that will benefit a Northwestern State University student majoring in fine and graphic art. The George Wolfe Endowed Scholarship honors the legacy of a long-time artist and educator who inspired creativity in those around him. David and Vonna Wolfe of Austin, Texas, initiated the endowed scholarship through a donation to the NSU Foundation, matched by State Farm.

A native of New Orleans, Wolfe was locally known for his dragons, life-size rhinoceros and 12-foot Don Quixote sculptures.

"My dad truly enjoyed Natchitoches and the time he spent both teaching and learning at NSU. He was indeed a lifelong learner," David Wolfe said. "We relish providing the scholarship to say thanks while helping someone else grow."

Wolfe graduated from Warren Easton High School in New Orleans, Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans and Northwestern State, where he completed his third master's degree. He encouraged everyone to further their education, expand their horizons and meet challenges with creativity. He passed away in 2014.

David Wolfe said the ideal recipient for the scholarship would be a person devoted to and as passionate about visual art as his father was and someone who would give back, such as a student who plans to teach arts. David Wolfe said that were his father could give advice to young students, he



The family of artist George Wolfe established a scholarship in his memory to benefit a Northwestern State University student majoring in fine and graphic art. From left are Dr. Greg Handel, director of NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts; Jill Bankston, associate director of development; donors Vonna and David Wolfe, Matt DeFord, director of the Department of Fine + Graphic Art, and Drake Owens, director of the NSU Foundation.

would encourage them to enjoy and embrace their work.

"You may be working on an assigned art project, but remember in the end it will be seen as your artwork, regardless of why you did it so give it your best effort. Stretch your boundaries. Always try new mediums although they will often not feel natural or comfortable at first," David Wolfe said.



Dr. Burt Allen received a standing ovation on his return to the NSU stage earlier this year.

Choir alumni gather to honor Allen, perform together once more

Approximately 80 Northwestern State choral alumni returned to campus to honor long-time Director of Choral Activities Dr. Burt Allen who completed a 32-year career last summer.

It was wonderful to have students from over a 32-year career come together, meet and form friendships based on the common experience they had at Northwestern.

"This was one of the highlights of my life. It was fabulous. I loved it. The event was a surreal experience," Allen said. "To be able to stand in front of a choir that included students from over a 30-year period, rehearse and perform was enjoyable."

The choral alumni had two days of rehearsals for a concert in Allen's honor and were directed by Allen. The Northwestern State Chamber Choir was conducted by Allen's successor Nicholas Cummins with accompaniment by Christine Burczyk. Allen also performed.

"It was a good choir," said Allen of the Reunion Choir. "They learned quickly and did well. When we first started, we didn't know who would be able to come. But it worked out that we had a good balanced choir that

was able to do some difficult pieces."

Being part of the choir brought back memories for the alumni and provided them some new insights into their former mentor.

—Dr. Burt Allen

"I was amazed to hear story after story of people who were touched by Burt's teaching. I've had the privilege of developing a professional relationship with him after college and feel a special bond with him," said alumnus David Toledo of Keller, Texas, who is an assistant professor, assistant dean of performance division at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "I discovered those ties have been duplicated countless times over the past few decades. Rather than being something unique to myself, I heard so many describe the way that Burt invested in their lives and helped them develop as

a musician and individual. He took the time year after year to care about his students and make them feel valuable as individuals."

Toledo said another quality was Allen's attention to detail and expression.

"Singing under his direction again was a dream come true and I was moved by the sounds and music that we were able to make," said Toledo. "Dr. Allen has a way of enabling singers to take ownership of their own artistic sensibilities and submit them in service to the other singers in the choir. It's truly remarkable. The true legacy of Dr. Allen's work at Northwestern – beautiful music, sung with careful detail and artistic expression by people who are loved and love each other, is something worth spreading."

Allen built Northwestern State's choral program into one of the top programs in the state and region. He founded the Northwestern State Chamber Choir. Under Allen's direction, NSU choirs performed at Carnegie Hall and had two successful European tours.

Allen remains active as a conductor, leading the Red River Chorale in Alexandria.

Talent-based scholarship will support students with big dreams

Music has always been a passion for Megan Guillory-Bourge and as a vocalist who attended Northwestern State University, she didn't realize that the talent that surrounded her there was actually very extraordinary. Guillory-Bourge, a Lake Charles resident, was among the choral alumni who returned to Natchitoches in January to honor Dr. Burt Allen, a teacher who had a profound impact on her as a voice student. Guillory-Bourge attended NSU from 2000-2003 as a vocal performance major and played clarinet in the Spirit of Northwestern marching band. Although she transferred to a conservatory in Winchester, Virginia, to complete studies, her heart was at NSU.

"NSU is really where I spent the best part of my time in college," Guillory-Bourge said. "Dr. Allen was immensely influential in my life. He is probably the most important teacher I had, even after leaving NSU and going to a bigger school. He made a huge difference."

Although she pursued a career path outside music, her desire to reward talented students led to the establishment of four talent-based scholarships to benefit students majoring in vocal performance. She worked with voice faculty in NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts, who auditioned students for the awards. Guillory-Bourge was so impressed with one student, she increased the amount awarded to that individual scholarship.

The scholarship announcement was made during the reunion that honored Allen, who retired last year after 32 years at NSU where he was coordinator of music and director of choral activities.

"As a music major at NSU and then later at the conservatory, I was constantly surrounded by so much talent, that I mistakenly started to believe that it was normal," she said. "After hearing another university's top choir sing, I was made aware of how different

and special it is for someone to have a true talent. I believe that talent can be shaped and refined through training, but never taught and I wanted to reward these students for having such great talent."



Megan Guillory-Bourge, left, a former vocal student at NSU, created several talent-based scholarships for students majoring in vocal performance. She is pictured with recipients Mark Payton, Taylor Arnouville and Leanny Munoz. Not shown is Amanda Charles.

The scholarship recipients are Leanny Munoz of Abbeville, Mark Payton of West Monroe, Taylor Arnouville of Bordelonville and Amanda Charles of Bossier City. Munoz will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Payton, Arnouville and Charles will receive \$500 each. Auditions will be held annually, Guillory-Bourge said.

"I have found that the system often spends more time and money on the lowest performing students and I want these top performers to know that they deserve recognition for being special," Guillory-Bourge said. "I was blown away by the talent I saw in the School of Creative and Performing Arts. NSU has an excellent program and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to be a part of it. I'm fortunate to be able to help these kids and I hope the message of my scholarship is understood by them," she said.

Munoz is a Louisiana Scholars' College student majoring in liberal arts with a concentration in fine and performing arts. She intends to pursue an advanced degree and study musicology and/or vocal performance.

Payton is a junior music major with a concentration in performance and an emphasis in vocal performance. He would like to pursue a master's degree in vocal performance and become certified to teach.

Arnouville is a junior majoring in music business with a concentration in voice. He plans to earn a master's degree in composition and eventually become a film composer.

Charles is a native of Bay City, Texas, and grew up in the Houston area. She moved to Austin, Texas at age 18 and had a daughter at age 20. She now lives in Bossier City and commutes 1-1/2 hours to Natchitoches.

"Having my daughter changed everything in my life," she said. "She's the reason why I go to school every day and keep pushing forward." In addition to caring for her daughter, Charles

has a full-time job while pursuing her degree in music performance and music education. Her desire is to be a professional opera singer.

"Just being recognized to get this scholarship will help me emotionally. I feel honored to have been chosen for this. It just gave me a huge boost of confidence that maybe I can actually do this. I was very moved."

"These kids are special and when you are surrounded by this kind of talent every day you don't realize how special it is," said Guillory-Bourge.

"This scholarship helps defer the cost of school so that I can keep learning about what I love, which is voice, and gives me more of a drive to stay in the practice room to make sure I am performing at my highest level," Payton said. "I am so honored that an alumna of Northwestern State University's School of Creative and Performing Arts decided to invest in this current generation of musicians and artists, continues to see the very best that CAPA has to offer and brings an awareness that the arts are still alive."



Brent still supports aspiring music educators through planned gifts

Bill Brent, who spent a career mentoring young musicians, particularly those who intended to teach music, announced a planned gift to benefit students with a desire to positively impact a new generation of musicians. Brent, longtime director of Northwestern State University's Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts, created the William Erwin Brent Endowed Director's Fund and the Edna Mae and Erwin Jessie Brent Endowed Scholarship in Music Education through a bequest to the NSU Foundation.

Seventy-five percent of the planned gift will go towards the scholarship that honors his parents, Edna Mae and Erwin Jessie Brent. The scholarship will be awarded to a music education major with a grade point average of 3.0 or better who has passed the Praxis exam and is engaged in student teaching.

"Currently, these students lose their performance scholarships because they can not participate in music ensembles while student teaching. So, this will be a way to help make up the difference for them," Brent said.

Twenty-five percent of the planned gift will go towards the William Erwin Brent Endowed Director's Fund, to be used at the discretion of the CAPA di-

rector to support faculty and students as needed.

Brent served NSU for 30 years as director of bands and as director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts. He was the inaugural inductee into the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame, one of many accomplishments he earned during his long career. He retired from administrative duties and band in 2013 but continues to be involved in special projects as needed in CAPA.

Brent's first memory of music was in the church where he grew up where his mother played piano and his father was a vocalist and involved in the music program. He began studying piano in second grade, started band in the fifth grade and choir in the sixth grade, which he continued throughout his high school career, in addition to studying organ in high school.

"I absolutely loved being in band and, in the 8th grade I wanted to stop taking piano lessons. My dad told me I could do that but I would have to stop being in band. So, I continued to take piano lessons and it was possibly the best thing my dad ever did for me. It wasn't until I got into college that I

realized how much further along I was than many of my peers who were having to learn piano from scratch. Many of them struggled. I had no problems placing out of piano studies and continued to study piano for a while in college," Brent said.

Brent said the ideal recipient of the Edna Mae and Erwin Jessie Brent Endowed Scholarship in Music Education would be one who has worked hard to achieve goals both musically and academically.

"The student would have participated in numerous ensembles and been supportive of their fellow students," Brent said. "It would be a person who tries to 'lead by example,' which is a phrase I used often with the band students."

Brent said he feels blessed to work with outstanding CAPA faculty, staff and students as well as serve on committees across campus with numerous outstanding faculty and staff.

"I was fortunate to have four different presidents, several academic vice presidents and numerous deans who realized the importance of the arts and a well-rounded arts programs," Brent said. "I also have to thank Ladell Conley, office administrator, who worked

Continued on page 11

Friend, mentor, former math professor Sam Shelton remembered

An Arkansas couple established an endowed scholarship in memory of a former math professor at Northwestern State University who was a special teacher and mentor. William and Elaine Squyres Durand of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, established the Sam Shelton Math Scholarship through the NSU Foundation. Shelton was Mr. Durand's math teacher at NSU, as well as a close friend who encouraged him to pursue advanced degrees.

"I have had a wonderful teaching career and it all began at Northwestern 58 years ago with the guidance of my wonderful mentor, Sam Shelton," Durand said. "I have tried to emulate him as I have guided students through their degree programs. He set an example that I have strived to replicate."

The scholarship will be awarded to a junior or senior level student majoring in math who maintains a 3.0 or better grade point average.

Durand enrolled at Northwestern as a first generation college student who wanted to become a mathematics teacher.

"Mr. Shelton was one of the best teachers I have ever had. He took a poor farm boy from Pollock High School and guided him to the B.S. in 1962 and M.S. in 1963 in mathematics," Durand said. "During that first year Mr. Shelton became my best friend on campus. He always welcomed me to his office and would put aside whatever he was working on to help me with whatever problem I was having. My problems were not always about mathematics."

Before Durand completed his undergraduate degree, Shelton was already encouraging him to pursue a master's degree. After teaching for one semester at South Terrebonne High School in Houma, Durand began work on his master's degree, which he completed in 1963, and went to work at Live Oak High School in Watson.



William and Elaine Durand of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, established a scholarship at their alma mater, Northwestern State University, to honor a beloved teacher and mentor. The Sam Shelton Math Scholarship will be presented to an upper level student majoring in math. From left are Jill Bankston and Drake Owens of the NSU Foundation with Elaine and William Durand.

He taught two summers at NSU as a visiting lecturer.

Durand joined the faculty at Henderson State Teachers College, later named Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia in 1966 and completed his Ed.D. with emphasis in mathematics at Oklahoma State University in 1972. Returning to Henderson State, he rose in the ranks to professor and eventually department chair.

"In 2005 I was awarded the degree of Distinguished Professor of Mathematics," Durand said. "Even though I retired as Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus in 2007 I have continued to teach one or two senior level/graduate level mathematics classes each semester."

Durand and his wife Elaine married in 1967, the year she earned a degree in elementary education at NSU, and they are the parents of Dr. Kevin Durand and Dr. Eileen Durand Faulkenberry. Kevin is the Dean of Students at a charter school in Little Rock as well as the AP calculus and physics teacher. Eileen is professor of mathematics education at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. The Durands have seven grandchildren, two grandsons and five granddaughters.

"Endowing this scholarship in memory of Mr. Shelton has been my desire for a long time," Durand said. "I hope that it will be a stimulus and financial help for students long into the future. Northwestern State University has been good to me and my wife."

Brent continued from page 10.

with me for nearly 30 years, keeping me on task and on time with so many aspects of the band and CAPA."

Brent said both CAPA and the NSU bands are stronger than ever due to

the new leadership of his successors, Dr. Greg Handel, CAPA director, and Dr. Jeff Mathews, director of bands.

"These endowments are a small effort on my part to say 'thank you' to

NSU and Natchitoches and to encourage others to remember to 'give back' so that we can 'give forward' in the future," Brent said.



SEC Commish still part of the NSU athletic family tree

Greg Sankey took a computer science course during his two years as an athletic intern, golf coach and NCAA compliance director at Northwestern State.

"I don't know if that qualifies me as an alum," he said with the wry sense of humor that has become apparent nationally in his first year as one of the most powerful people in college sports.

Sankey is somebody that NSU considers part of its athletic family tree.

Sankey, who worked under Demons' athletics director Tynes Hildebrand from 1990-92, officially became commissioner of the Southeastern Conference last summer. He had been overseeing the SEC office's operations since March 2012, when he was named the league's No. 2 executive. He was commissioner of the Southland Conference, which includes Northwestern, for nearly seven years before joining the SEC staff in 2002.

It's been a stupendous journey for somebody who came to NSU as an intern in the athletics department after serving as director of intramural sports at Utica College in upstate New York. Recently, Sankey offered insight into his climb to the top of the intercollegiate sports world, and the time he and his wife Cathy spent in Natchitoches as a young married couple.

Family comes first for Sankey, a doting husband and a very proud father.

"Cathy is adjusting to being married to the SEC Commissioner and the demands on my time and our time that come with that role. During the middle of football season, in October, she spent a week and half traveling in Rwanda with Compassion International," he said.

"Our oldest daughter, Hannah, graduated from Mississippi State in May 2015 with a degree in broadcast meteorology and is a TV meteorologist on the Ft. Wayne (Ind.) CBS affiliate WANE-TV. Our youngest, Moriah, is a sophomore elementary education major at Wheaton (Ill.) College, and she spent this past summer in India."

? As the iconic CBS Sports announcer Verne Lundquist would say, "in your wildest dreams" when you came here, did you imagine working at the SEC level of college athletics, or aspire to it, or were you simply trying to find your way?

! Cathy and I are from upstate New York, just outside Syracuse, and were living in Utica shortly after we were married in November 1988.

"In the spring of 1989, I was finishing coursework for my master's degree at Syracuse University, and we had a conversation about what we wanted to do in life. Keep in mind, this conversation was about four months after we were married. She shared her desire to be a wife and a mother, and mine was to work in Division I athletics, and 'to see how far I might go.'"

"When we moved to Natchitoches in late July 1989, I knew we had enough money to make it to November and we moved literally to see if I could do the type of work in athletics administration. If it didn't work out, my plan was to move back to New York and try to secure a job as a high school teacher and coach.

"Cathy was hired as a nurse at Natchitoches Parish Hospital,

Continued on page 13

Sankey continued from page 12.

so we could live on more than the \$500 per month Tynes was paying me. The move to Louisiana was our adventure, a chance to see how far it might go, with the only thought being committed to doing the best work possible and to see where it might lead.

"And, back then, my wildest dreams never included being Commissioner of the Southeastern Conference."

? Those two years here left you both fond of Natchitoches. Why?

! "We have returned to Natchitoches numerous times, but not as often as we might like. We still have friends there and it is one of the homes we have come to love through this journey.

Each year we hang a print in our living room from the 1989 Natchitoches Christmas Festival, which was our first year to share in that community celebration, which serves as a great reminder of how special that time was in our lives.

"Moving from New York to Natchitoches was one of the best decisions we ever made.

"During a recent speaking engagement, I shared with leaders of the LSU Tiger Athletic Foundation how much the entire state of Louisiana means to me and Cathy. It is where we celebrated our first wedding anniversary and where, for our 25th wedding anniversary (in 2013) we returned to celebrate at the same restaurant we visited in 1989 - The Mariner's."

? Aside from Coach Hildebrand, who and what were major influences for you during your days at NSU and in Natchitoches?

! The first month we lived in Natchitoches (August 1989) I met Britton Banowsky, who has become one of my closest friends in intercollegiate athletics. I eventually left Northwestern State to fill the role Britton had at the Southland Conference as Assistant Commissioner for Compliance, then worked for him when he returned to the Southland as Commissioner, and then replaced him as Commissioner when he left to join the Big 12 staff.

"Jim Wells became baseball coach at Northwestern just a month before I started there, and I was able to renew acquaintances when I joined the SEC staff and he was coaching baseball at the University of Alabama.

"Current Ole Miss baseball coach Mike Bianco was on Jim's staff as an assistant coach and I've been able to reconnect with him in the SEC.

"(Then-NSU President Dr.) Robert Alost was very encouraging to me throughout my time at Northwestern State, and he was helpful in supporting my compliance-related work.

"Brad Creed was the pastor of the First Baptist Church while we lived in Natchitoches. I have been fortunate to regularly intersect during my time living in the Dallas area and, more recently, when he lived in Birmingham while

serving as Provost at Samford University.

"Greg Burke became a friend upon my arrival at NSU. We worked together when I was the Southland Commissioner and he became the NSU Athletics Director, and we have kept up with each other over the years (including when I found him sitting in the Ohio State section at the 2015 Sugar Bowl...very disappointing....)"

As for Coach Hildebrand, what did he mean to you then, and now?

"I could likely fill this publication with the lessons I learned from Tynes and explaining what he has meant to me over the years. Tynes gave me an opportunity, was incredibly welcoming to both Cathy and myself, and he was willing to give me more new opportunities that provided the foundation for where I am today.

"He was also an example of someone who very much enjoyed and appreciated his life, was dedicated to his family, and was committed to being successful in his work without any excuses for the University's financial challenges at the time.

"Tynes, in many ways, was this incredibly prominent person. We would go to meetings and he would seemingly know everyone and they knew him. He was very effective in Conference meetings at both representing Northwestern State and contributing to the overall good of the Southland Conference.

"Tynes was very respected in the basketball community, and I was able to involve him in helping support the Southland Conference Tournament and in supporting improvement of basketball officiating.

"Tynes has always been someone I could talk to and with, whom I enjoyed listening to and learning from, and still always look forward to our conversations."

? Coach Hildebrand added to your duties not long into your time here when he made you the golf coach. How has your time coaching golf impacted your perspective?

! "I learned I was not very good at playing golf, probably would never be very good at playing golf, but also learned to appreciate those who are talented and love the game.

"If anything tangible, I learned how much setting a positive atmosphere can help improve performance and that showing people you care is more important than impressing people with what you know (or think you know)."

Q: Any vignettes about the golf team? Have you had any contact with some of those guys through the years, or recently?

"Several of the players reached out to me after I was named the SEC Commissioner. They were probably stunned that this guy who used to drive the team van around had risen to such a level. It was good to visit, over the phone, through email or via Twitter, with those who contacted me.

"As far as vignettes, I could also probably fill a publication with some of those stories."



Athletics looks to the future with Perpetually Purple



Heloise and Bryan Lewis established the Lewis Athletic Scholarship.

Since May 2015, the future has gotten brighter and brighter for North-western State Athletics thanks to generous support of alumni and friends. It's based in the "Perpetually Purple" endowed giving program managed by the Demons Unlimited Foundation.

The goal of NSU director of athletics Greg Burke and his staff is to grow the endowment, through outright donations or deferred gifts, over the next five years from the \$1.5 million level last May to over \$5 million. So far, gifts have come from former athletes and their families, supporters of the university and most notably, iconic retired president Dr. Randy Webb and his wife, Brenda.

The program is separate from the efforts to supplement the annual budget for the athletics program with donations, corporate partnerships and special fund-raising events.

"Those revenue streams are imperative on an ongoing basis, but development of the Perpetually Purple endowment program is equally important," said Burke. "NSU coaches, staff and student-athletes will be able to count on those endowed funds each and every year."

Burke said the vehicles through which commitments are being made to the "Perpetually Purple" program have been varied.

"Making a consideration for the NSU athletic program in their estate planning represents another popular and easy way to further solidify the future of NSU Athletics. Others may choose to make an outright gift which will have an immediate impact on the athletic program. The bottom line is there is a way for everyone to participate." —Greg Burke

Earnings from the 60 permanent funds, including the new investments in the Perpetually Purple program, which now exceed \$1.6 million are utilized to balance the athletic department's annual scholarship budget.

"Current endowment funding ensures that all 14 NSU sports can continue offering the maximum number of scholarships permitted by NCAA guidelines," said Burke. "Being able to do so is paramount to sustaining a high level of competitiveness but more importantly, continues to provide opportunities for young people to receive a scholarship which can lead to earning a college degree. Based on the fact that the NCAA Graduation

Success Rate of NSU Athletics is right at 70 percent over the past five years, endowment funds are a worthwhile investment."

A fundamental goal of the initial push is to reach the \$5 million milestone, allowing the endowment to completely underwrite book scholarships for all NSU student-athletes, an expense of nearly \$200,000 currently paid by annual gifts to the DUF, he said. Annual gift revenues will then be redirected to more significantly enhance facilities, bolster recruiting budgets, retain or hire outstanding coaches, and offset ever-increasing scholarship costs.

A minimum of \$10,000 is required to create an endowment fund. It can be established with an outright gift such as cash, a stock transfer or property sale, a life insurance policy, or can be included as a provision in a will or bequest. Arrangements can be made to fund an endowment over an extended period of time.

To inquire about the Perpetually Purple program, contact Burke (burkeg@nsula.edu, (318) 357-5251), Associate AD and DUF Executive Director Adam Jonson (jonsona@nsula.edu, (318) 357-4295) or Assistant AD Haley Blount (blounth@nsula.edu, (318) 357-4278). Information is also available on the NSUDemons.com website.



Former softball player Nanette Hawthorne established an athletic scholarship for women. From left are Head Softball Coach Donald Pickett, player Hailee Rhodes, Hawthorne, Greg Burke, Haley Blount and player Micaela Bouvier.

Perpetually Purple scholarship endowments created or enhanced 2015-16

- Wil Adams Athletic Scholarship***
- Ginger Craig Softball Scholarship***
- Sam & David Gallien Scholarship**
- Nanette Hawthorne Athletic Scholarship for Women***
- Donald & Pat Horton Family Athletic Scholarship***
- Doug Ireland Athletic Scholarship**
- Walter P. Ledet Track Scholarship**
- Bryant & Heloise Lewis Athletic Scholarship**
- Vic & Terry Stelly Athletic Scholarship***
- Julien Vienne Baseball Scholarship***
- Webb Family Athletic Scholarship***
- Wright Family Scholarship***

*Created in FY 2015-16



Softball great Ginger Craig established the Ginger Craig Softball Scholarship.



Looking Back

During academic year 1990-91, the Northwestern State University Distinguished Lecture Series hosted technology visionary Nicholas Negroponte, science fiction giant Ray Bradbury and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alex Haley who met and spoke with students.

Negroponte, founder and director of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, described a future in which image technology would transform newspapers, music, cinema, television, medicine and communication and human interaction with computers would become more and more personal.

Bradbury discussed his collected work of novels, poems, short stories and plays that he began writing at age 20, as well as his contributions to the futuristic U.S. Pavilion for the 1964 World's Fair and Spaceship Earth at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center.

During his speech, Haley shared tales of his childhood in Henning, Tennessee, and some of the background that resulted in his most famous work, the American epic "Roots." Having been exposed to some family history from listening to his grandmother and great aunts talk about their ancestors, he made the connection between those stories and his own history when he discovered an 1870 census record of his ancestors.



Nicholas Negroponte



Alex Haley



Ray Bradbury

Planning to visit Natchitoches?

If you are planning a visit to campus, be sure to visit **natchitoches.com** to help plan your itinerary.

There are always activities, events, exhibits and attractions that appeal to visitors that take place year-round in Natchitoches and Cane River Country.



Guess Who



With Northwestern State's Sigma Nu chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, readers are challenged to identify these 1966 officers. The first five correct answers will win a prize. If you know the answer, call the NSU Publications Office at (318) 357-4553 or e-mail jacksonl@nsula.edu.

Pictured in Winter 2016 Guess Who were the 1966 Judiciary Board of the Associated Women Students. They were Mrs. Lucile Hendrick, dean of women; Mary Pat Hayden, Patsy Watkins, Pat Simon, Amy Maxwell and Robin Butler.

Readers who guess correctly were:

Patricia Simon-Deshotels, 1966, Lafayette
(originally from Gueydan)
Carole Fox Hartfield, 1969, Shreveport
Robin Butler Shaffer, 1968, Shreveport
Beverly Clarke Porche, 1969, Richmond, Texas
Cheryl Hillman Cummings, 1967, Huntsville, Texas



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In Memory

- 1936 – Bert Crowder, Oct. 16, 2015, Houston, Texas
- 1941 – Inez McGhee Townsend, Aug. 5, 2015, Baton Rouge
- 1946 – Mary Bess Prestridge Schlieff, Feb. 3, 2016, Irving, Texas
- 1949 – O'Hern Vincent "Duffy" Dufour, January 25, 2016, Alexandria, Virginia
- 1950 – Barbara Finlay Manning, July 28, 2015, Waterproof
- 1954 – Robert J. Sutherlin, Jan. 15, 2016, Liberty, Texas
- 1958 – Dale Murphy Bryant Cooper, April 20, 2015, Shreveport
- 1962 – Lawrence "Cokey" Carnahan, Feb. 13, 2016, Cloutierville
- 1962 – Julien "Coach" Vienne, Jan. 2, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1964 – M.B. Childress, May 31, 2015, Bossier City
- 1966 – Marie Medica Pugh, Nov. 9, 2015, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 1968 – Johnny Antoon, Nov. 25, 2015, Natchitoches
- 1969 – David Arnold Sr., May 8, 2010, Dry Prong
- 1969 – Janis Negent Perkins, Jan. 16, 2016, Pitkin
- 1969 – Michael O. Perkins, Jan. 16, 2016, Pitkin
- 1971 – Ross Gwinn, Feb. 2, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1972 – Reginald B. Longlois, Jan. 30, 2016, Many
- 1972 – Shirley Downs Young, Jan. 8, 2016, Hillsborough, North Carolina
- 1976 – Barbara Anne Cohen, Nov. 27, 2015, Natchitoches
- 1988 – Paulette Emilie Morel Gallagher, July 14, 2014, Alexandria
- 2001 – Linda Fay Pratt, Dec. 27, 2015, Alexandria
- 2008 – Johnnie Charles "Lil Man" Santiago, March 1, 2016, Independence
- 2010 – Carolyn Jolivet Youngblood, Nov. 22, 2015, Lawton, Oklahoma
- Dylan Kyle Poche, Jan. 30, 2016, Natchitoches
- Carla Lorene Shaffer, Sandy Run, South Carolina

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Dallas	Home of Jill Morrison	6 pm	Friday, April 1st
Austin	County Line on the Lake	6 pm	Friday, April 8th
Houston	Rajin Cajun on Westimer	12 pm	Saturday, April 9th
Alexandria	Tunks	6 pm	Thursday, April 14th
Natchitoches	Jazz Fest Tent	all day	Friday and Saturday, April 15th & 16th
New York City	Bourbon Street Bar and Grille at 346 W 46th St	6 pm	Saturday, April 23rd
Bloomington, IL	Baxter's American Grille	6 pm	Saturday, May 14th
Atlanta, GA	Bartow Carver Park in Acworth, GA	11 am	Saturday, May 21st
Washington DC	Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria	12 pm	Saturday, June 11th
Pensacola	The Grand Marlin	6 pm	Saturday, June 18th